

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/758,741

Examiner

Tianjie Chen

Applicant(s)

WOODS ET AL.

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Response filed on 01/18/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7 and 9.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


TIANJIE CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

- Claims 10-17 have been cancelled for they had been withdrawn from consideration without traverse.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- With regard to independent claim 1, as the closest reference on record, Green (US 5,517,376) discloses a rotating disc drive assembly having a powered hub, which rotates a flat, annular disc, a clamp being used to fasten the disc to the powered hub via connecting fasteners, an improvement including: the clamp having a generally annular shape with a peripheral contact surface which faces downward against an upper surface of the disc; the peripheral contact surface having a straight line segment along a radius from a center of the hub; the straight line segment starting from an inner edge to an outer edge of the peripheral contact surface; the straight line segment further including a taper starting from the outer edge upward toward the inner edge; and wherein when the fastener s fastened a force emanating from the fastener outbound to the outer edge of the peripheral contact surface causes the clamp to distort downward from the inner edge to the outer edge of the peripheral contact surface, **but fails to show** that the deformation forces the inner edge in contact

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with the upper surface of the disc, thereby distributing the downward force on the fastener along an entire length of the straight line segment.

- With regard to independent claim 5, as the closest reference on record, Green (US 5,517,376) a clamp including a round, disc shaped body having an outer, round peripheral edge; the body having a central hole to mate to a hub; the body having a lower surface with a clamp to disc contact surface; the clamp to disc contact surface further comprising a peripheral edge and an inner edge; the clamp to disc contact surface having a straight line segment along a radius from a center of the hub to the peripheral edge; and the straight line segment having an incline angle starting at the peripheral edge and extending upward to the inner edge of the clamp to disc contact surface; and wherein when the clamp is fastened by a fastener through the clamp into a hub, a force will emanate from the fastener outbound to the peripheral edge of the clamp to disc contact surface, **but fails to show** that the force causes the clamp to distort downward from the inner edge to the peripheral edge of the clamp to disc contact surface so as to force the inner edge in contact with an upper surface of a disc, thereby distributing the force on the clamp along an entire length of the straight line segment.
- Applicant asserts that the present is for fastening of rotating circular plates to prevent a disc from being warped due to the force associated with disc clamping (Specification, p. 1).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably


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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tianjie Chen whose telephone number is 571-272-7570. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30, Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


TIANJIE CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER